



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

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The Virginia unemployment rate fell to 4.0 percent in August while total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 10,500

—Changes in these measures since April 2020 primarily reflect the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and efforts to contain it. —

RICHMOND— Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell 0.2 of a percentage point in August to 4.0 percent, which is 3.0 percentage points below the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in August, the labor force increased by 5,550 to 4,247,321, as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 7,678 to 168,515. The number of employed residents rose by 13,228 to 4,078,806. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which fell from 5.4 to 5.2 percent.

Virginia nonagricultural wage and salary employment, from the monthly establishment survey, rose by 10,500 jobs in August to 3,913,200. July's preliminary estimate was revised upward by 200, adding to that month's job gain. In August, private sector employment increased by 1,500 jobs to 3,208,700, while public sector payrolls increased by 9,000 jobs to 704,500. Much of the increase within that sector occurred in local government (+6,700 jobs), but employment also rose in state government (+2,400 jobs), while federal government lost 100 jobs.

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Employment rose in six of eleven major industry sectors, declined in four, and was unchanged in one. The largest job gain during August occurred in **government** with an increase of 9,000 jobs to 704,500. The second largest increase occurred in **miscellaneous** (+4,600 jobs) to 185,500. **Leisure and hospitality** gained 2,300 jobs, rising to 347,500 in August. Other increases included **finance** (+1,200 jobs) to 204,000, **construction** (+600 jobs) to 205,400, and **manufacturing** (+100 jobs) to 236,700. **Mining** was unchanged over the month. The largest job loss during August occurred in **trade and transportation** with a decrease of 3,400 jobs to 653,400. The second largest decrease occurred in **professional and business services** (-2,600 jobs) to 773,100. Other decreases included **education and health services** (-1,100 jobs) to 530,300, and **information** (-200 jobs) to 65,100.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			July 2021 to August 2021		August 2020 to August 2021	
	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	3,913,200	3,902,700	3,830,700	10,500	0.3%	82,500	2.2%
Total Private Sector	3,208,700	3,207,200	3,111,300	1,500	0.0%	97,400	3.1%
Goods-Producing	449,800	449,100	438,500	700	0.2%	11,300	2.6%
Mining	7,700	7,700	6,900	0	0.0%	800	11.6%
Construction	205,400	204,800	200,000	600	0.3%	5,400	2.7%
Manufacturing	236,700	236,600	231,600	100	0.0%	5,100	2.2%
Service-Providing	3,463,400	3,453,600	3,392,200	9,800	0.3%	71,200	2.1%
Private Service-Providing	2,758,900	2,758,100	2,672,800	800	0.0%	86,100	3.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	653,400	656,800	636,800	-3,400	-0.5%	16,600	2.6%
Information	65,100	65,300	64,200	-200	-0.3%	900	1.4%
Finance	204,000	202,800	208,300	1,200	0.6%	-4,300	-2.1%
Professional and Business Services	773,100	775,700	752,500	-2,600	-0.3%	20,600	2.7%
Education and Health Services	530,300	531,400	521,900	-1,100	-0.2%	8,400	1.6%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	347,500	345,200	310,400	2,300	0.7%	37,100	12.0%
Miscellaneous Services	185,500	180,900	178,700	4,600	2.5%	6,800	3.8%
Government	704,500	695,500	719,400	9,000	1.3%	-14,900	-2.1%
Federal Government	185,900	186,000	191,700	-100	-0.1%	-5,800	-3.0%
State Government	150,100	147,700	154,200	2,400	1.6%	-4,100	-2.7%
Local Government	368,500	361,800	373,500	6,700	1.9%	-5,000	-1.3%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From August 2020 to August 2021, the VEC estimates that establishments in Virginia gained 82,500 jobs, an increase of 2.2%. In August, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 97,400 jobs, while employment in the public sector lost 14,900 jobs.

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Compared to a year ago, on a **seasonally adjusted** basis, nine of eleven major industry divisions experienced employment increases. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **leisure and hospitality**, up 37,100 jobs (+12.0%). The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **professional and business services**, up 20,600 jobs (+2.7%). **Trade and transportation** experienced the third largest over-the-year job gain of 16,600 jobs (+2.6%). **Education and health services** employment rose by 8,400 jobs (+1.6%). Miscellaneous added 6,800 jobs (+3.8%). Other increases were in **construction**, up 5,400 jobs (+2.7%); **manufacturing**, up 5,100 jobs (+2.2%); **information**, up 900 jobs (+1.4%); and **mining**, up 800 jobs (11.6%). **Government** declined by 14,900 jobs (-2.1%). Within government, there were decreases in federal government employment (-5,800 jobs); local government employment (-5,000 jobs); and state government (-4,100 jobs). **Finance** lost 4,300 jobs (-2.1%) over the year.

Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			July 2021 to August 2021		August 2020 to August 2021	
	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Virginia	3,913,200	3,902,700	3,830,700	10,500	0.3%	82,500	2.2%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	76,500	76,400	73,700	100	0.1%	2,800	3.8%
Charlottesville MSA	113,400	114,100	111,300	-700	-0.6%	2,100	1.9%
Harrisonburg MSA	68,300	67,900	66,200	400	0.6%	2,100	3.2%
Lynchburg MSA	99,900	100,800	99,800	-900	-0.9%	100	0.1%
Northern Virginia MSA	1,476,800	1,473,100	1,436,400	3,700	0.3%	40,400	2.8%
Richmond MSA	650,200	652,600	647,300	-2,400	-0.4%	2,900	0.4%
Roanoke MSA	158,800	158,600	154,300	200	0.1%	4,500	2.9%
Staunton-Waynesboro MSA	51,400	51,400	49,300	0	0.0%	2,100	4.3%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA	758,700	760,700	747,300	-2,000	-0.3%	11,400	1.5%
Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA	67,800	67,300	64,800	500	0.7%	3,000	4.6%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for ten metropolitan areas. In August, five metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains while four experienced job losses and one was unchanged. The largest absolute job increase occurred in Northern Virginia (+3,700 jobs). The next largest absolute job gain occurred in Winchester (+500 jobs). The third largest increase occurred in Harrisonburg (+400 jobs). Blacksburg-Christiansburg Radford added 100 jobs. Staunton-Waynesboro was unchanged. Richmond experienced the largest absolute job loss, down 2,400 jobs, while Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News lost 2,000 jobs.

Over-the-year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment increased in all ten metropolitan areas. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up 40,400 jobs (+2.8%). Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News ranked second with a gain of 11,400 jobs (+1.5%). Roanoke

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ranked third, with a gain of 4,500 jobs (+2.9%). Other over-the-year job gains occurred in Winchester (+3,000 jobs), Richmond (+2,900 jobs), Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (+2,800 jobs), Charlottesville (+2,100 jobs), Harrisonburg (+2,100 jobs), Staunton-Waynesboro (+2,100 jobs), and Lynchburg (+100 jobs).

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate fell by 0.3 of a percentage point in August to 3.8 percent, and was down 3.3 percentage points from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed decreased by 150,520, household employment increased by 14,765, and the labor force decreased by 135,755. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national unadjusted rate, which declined by 0.4 of a percentage point in August to 5.3 percent.

Compared to last month, the August unadjusted workweek for Virginia's 154,800 manufacturing production workers decreased by 1.9 hours to 39.9 hours. Average hourly earnings of private-sector production workers increased by \$.53 to \$21.59 in August and average weekly earnings decreased \$18.87 to \$861.44.

Technical note: Estimates of unemployment and industry employment levels are obtained from two separate monthly surveys. Resident employment and unemployment data are mainly derived from the Virginia portion of the national Current Population Survey (CPS), a household survey conducted each month by the U.S. Census Bureau under contract with BLS, which provides input to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program (often referred to as the "household" survey). Industry employment data is mainly derived from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey, a monthly survey of approximately 18,000 Virginia businesses conducted by BLS, which provides estimates of employment, hours, and earnings data broken down by industry for the nation as a whole, all states and most major metropolitan areas (often referred to as the "establishment" survey). Both industry and household estimates are revised each month based on additional information from updated survey reports compiled by the BLS. **For national figures and information on how COVID-19 affected collection of the BLS establishment and household surveys in April, refer to the BLS [August 2021 Employment Situation](#) press release for details.**

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of August 8-14, 2021.

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the April local area unemployment rates on Wednesday, September 29, 2021. The data will be available on our website www.VirginiaWorks.com. The September statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, October 22, 2021.